

SHOUXSANNA RAMIREZ-CRUZ

Boston, Massachusetts
617.272.0972

Portfolio: www.SiouxSanna.com
SiouxSanna@SiouxSanna.com

LEADERSHIP AREAS

- Fundraising & Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Programming: creation & development
- Marketing & Communications
- Team Management
- Project Management: capital improvements
- Vendor & Client Communications
- Gallery Management & Curator
- Arts Management & Production

ARTS & EDUCATION AREAS

- Academic & Community Forums
- Curriculum Development
- Performance & Production
- Theatre Education
- Theatre Design & Technology
- Theatre Studies
- Youth Services: Teen Leadership
- Actor, dancer, vocalist, recording artist
- Choreographer, director, playwright
- Designer, visual artist

EDUCATION

Emerson College, Boston, MA

Master of Fine Arts: Theatre Education & Applied Theatre Candidate, in progress

Emerson College, Boston, MA

Master of Arts, Theatre Education: Theatre & Community and K-12 Educator

Emerson College, Boston, MA

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Acting

School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University, Boston, MA

Certificate of Illustration, in progress

Certificate of Graphic Design, in progress

WORKS

Mural Installations

- Blackstone Elementary School, Boston's South End, Massachusetts
MLK, Jr. Day 2020 Call for Action - in progress
- Our Lady of Lourdes School, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

Illustrator for Children's Literature

- *The Tree Bump* by Scott Forrest-Allen, in production
- *ABC's of Water Polo* by Scott Forrest-Allen, in production
- *Wally, The Water Polo Ball* by Scott Forrest-Allen, in production

Recordings

Un-Masked, Masquerade, The New England Performance Touring Company

LEADERSHIP PHILOSOPHY

Diversity and inclusion are two core values that motivate me as a leader. I am committed to creating new opportunities to move us all forward. I am committed to creating inclusive, multicultural spaces whereby all people experience first-hand the transformational power of community. I am known for creating an impenetrable fabric of trust to provide historically marginalized groups a space where people of all ages, identities, cultures, and abilities know they can be heard, that they matter, and that they belong.

I am passionate about building purpose-driven teams. In utilizing my expertise as a strategist, catalyst, and a steward of organizations, I help individuals understand how their unique gifts contribute to the larger whole. For instance, for twenty-five years I have led production teams consisting of highly skilled professionals, volunteers, and students to achieve specific goals and to meet challenging timetables. I am known for ensuring that every individual's skills and talents are honored and valued. As a facilitator, I tend to the group's communications and create a mood that is inspired and engaging. I have learned that my primary goal is to create a healthy environment in which people of all ages, identities, cultures, and abilities can thrive.

LEADERSHIP

Delegate

1791 Delegates

2019 - present

As a Delegate, I strive to educate the public about the moral issues of our time as a: Theatre educator, curriculum designer for civic education projects, strategic planner for national education initiatives, and publicist for 1791 Delegates publications.

Director

Laura's Center for the Arts and the Arts & Education Department

South Shore YMCA: Emilson Branch

2014 - 2019

For five years, I built and managed an annual operating budget of \$250,000, supervising a team of 20 staff, volunteers, and interns. I created strategic plans aligning our mission with the support of donors and the development team which led to the creation, and implementation of the Digital Media Center at Laura's Center for the Arts and capital improvements which enhanced the facility as a performance and training venue for the arts. Programmatic creation and revenue generating highlights include: the Summer Concert Series with the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra, The Olde Kids Jazz Big Band Orchestra, and local artists and I utilized my entrepreneurial skills to grow ArtsCamp, the summer camp program for youth, steadily from 11 to 26 camps over the course of four years. In marketing and communications, I designed and implemented a distinct branding and communications plan for the Center's educational and rental programs, curated and managed the digital marquee, led the

management of social media accounts, and created the Center’s digital newsletter, *State-of-the-Arts*. In the management and development of Laura’s Center for the Arts as a rental venue I created and established successful strategies for bolstering revenue in the venue rental program, created and negotiated contracts with clients and vendors, as well as, provided onsite supervision, production support, and event design. I developed strong and productive relationships with colleagues and partners across the organization, and with neighboring organizations which include:

- The Arc of Greater Plymouth
- The Arc of the South Shore
- Boston Symphony Orchestra
- Cardinal Cushing Centers, Hanover
- Friends of Hanover Music
- Friendship Home, Norwell
- Hanover Girl Scout Troop
- Hanover Council of Aging
- Investment Advisory Group, LLC
- Loretta LaRoche Productions
- Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (Middleboro & Plymouth)
- New England Village
- The Olde Kids Jazz Big Band
- The Plymouth Philharmonic
- Quincy Career Center
- South Shore Conservatory
- South Shore Medical Center
- South Shore Mental Health
- South Shore Peer Recovery
- South Shore Women’s Resource Center
- Zildjan

Director, School Age Child Care Program

The Community Art Center, Inc.

2014

In this role, I was responsible for the operations and management of the School Age Child Care Program. Duties included: devising resources for participants, families, and the staff, engaging external stakeholders, event management and support, archiving, administration of daily operations, long-term planning, budget maintenance, and reports for all disciplines: music, digital media, visual arts, theatre, and dance. In the management of the program I hired and managed four full time staff, two part-time support staff, volunteers, interns, visiting artists, and assessed instruction and programming. As a youth advocate, I supported individual students and families on a day to day basis, provided support for staff in the classroom, advocated for youth and developed dialogue with parents, partners, and the on-site clinician. I practiced and supervised program expectations/behavior response, ensured the safety of all activities, facilitated youth transitions to comply with accreditations, safety, and health requirements, regulations, and laws as mandated by the Department of Early Education and Care.

Co-Executive Director

Riverside Theatre Works: School of the Arts & Performance Centre

2002 – 2003

As Co-Executive Director, I was instrumental in revitalizing and preserving facilities at French’s Opera House to support the events, productions, and training programs. In the management of the School of the Arts I restructured the training program in theatre, dance, and vocal performance, built the faculty and staff presence, established an annual scholarship program, and created community partnerships with local schools. In the management of the Performance Center, I redesigned marketing principles by

restoring the organization's vision, brand, and curated the production season to reflect the organization's mission and commitment to the arts and education. As producer, I executed the bookings for designers, guest artists, and musicians. I wrote and directed three original productions which increased the company's visibility and engagement providing a new wave of performers the opportunity to serve the Boston Theatre Community in:

- *A Tribute to Bob Fosse*
- *A Tribute to Andrew Lloyd-Webber*
- *A Tribute to Judy Garland*

Director of Education

The Publick Theatre: The Young Company

2001 – 2003

As Director of Education, I contributed in the creation and development of The Publick Theatre's Education Department and The Young Company, the immersive classical outdoor Shakespearean summer training program for teens. Through instruction, apprenticeship, and understudy, students were taught and mentored by a professional adult company of actors and technicians. I served as facilitator between The Publick Theatre's artistic and business team, professional acting company, and The Young Company to ensure both educational objectives and production timelines were met. In the development of this new initiative, I established relationships with the teen company members, their families and schools, as well as, with local businesses and community partners to support the program's visibility and success.

Community Programs Coordinator

The Wang Center for the Performing Arts: Suskind Young At Arts

1997 – 2002

As a community liaison for The Wang Center I served as an active committee member for arts and education through various Boston councils and associations including: the Boston Children's Museum, the Museum of Science, the New England Aquarium, Zoo New England, and the Museum of Fine Arts. Programmatic highlights include: Management of the \$100,000 annual grant by Mellon Bank awarded to The Wang Center's Suskind Young At Arts Program for the Teen Ambassador Program which I conceptualized and implemented; reorganization and management of the complimentary ticketing outreach program for the Shubert and Wang Theatres, and the development of relationships with local community partners, such as: the Boys and Girls Clubs, AIDS Action, YMCAs, and Saint Francis House. Curriculum highlights include: curriculum design and execution of the community arts outreach season, negotiations with company managers and production teams of: Disney, Radio City, and the National Broadway touring companies of: *Miss Saigon*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Riverdance*, *Burn the Floor*, and *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*; identifying and hiring of guest educators for interactive educator and community workshops, and the creation and design of study guides to explore the themes in each production. As director of the Drama Club, I led playwrighting workshops with the teen ensemble producing two musical plays: *Making Connections* and *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, performed at the Majestic Theatre. In collaboration with the Boston Public Schools' annual Martin Luther King Day, Jr. Celebration, I served as production and stage manager for the productions at the Blackman Auditorium, and the Wang and Shubert Theatres.

Co-Artistic Director & Founding Member
The Other Theatre

1996 – 1998

As Co-Artistic Director and Founding Member of The Other Theatre, an experimental theatre company, created by Emerson College students and alumni. In this role, I led a team of artists in performance, production, arts management, and development to produce three seasons of reimagined interpretations of Shakespeare, original and contemporary works.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

I strive to create and maintain a safe and nurturing learning environment to honor all ages, identities, cultures, and abilities in the development of the whole artist through respect, mindfulness, and humanity. With an investment in the arts throughout our communities, we can curate conversations to impact the blueprint of our humanity which fuels me as teacher and learner.

I take seriously my role as a mentor of young leaders for the simple fact that I have been the recipient of unconditional support from my own mother and countless mentors. In caring for now two generations of young people, I have learned that my character is my greatest influence on them, just as my mentors have left a lasting impact on me with their kindness, resilience, and strength. As an arts educator, I am deeply committed to embodying the belief that every encounter, big and small, is a teachable moment whereby we as individuals and as a collective grow as artists and as human beings.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Faculty Advisor
Emerson College

present

As faculty advisor to Musical Theatre Against the Grain (MTAG), a student organization dedicated to producing classic musicals from the American Musical Theatre canon, I maintain communication with the MTAG Leadership and Board of Directors to ensure all policies, procedures, and practices align with the requirements and expectations of Emerson College.

Affiliated Faculty & Guest Instructor
Emerson College

2010 – present

For the last decade, I have served as an affiliated faculty member and guest instructor in the Department of Performing Arts at Emerson College in the areas of Theatre Studies and Design and Technology.

HIGHER EDUCATION: COLLEGE COURSES

Affiliated Faculty

Emerson College, Department of Performing Arts

2015 – 2020

Undergraduate instructor for the Theatre Studies courses:

World Drama in its Context II

Spring 2019

Surveys theatre and drama from the late 17th century to the present. The major periods of world theatre and drama, Romanticism, Modernism, and Post-Modernism are studied with particular emphasis on 20th-century theatre and drama throughout the world, including Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Attention is given to the work of both women and men. Theatrical conventions, innovations, and techniques developed in the Western and non-Western theatres are explored.

Languages of the Stage

Fall 2016, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020

Introduces students to the various means of expression available to the art of the stage. In addition to an exploration of the techniques of the written script, students are introduced to the visual forms of artistic communication, their history, and the conventions of all theatrical forms. Spring 2020 devised remote course offering midsemester and online instruction.

Undergraduate instructor for the Design and Technology courses:

Stagecraft: Crafts

Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2018

Students acquire experience in standard technical craft practices for the theatre. Students study fundamental techniques in selected technical/craft areas including: fiber arts technique, pattern construction, mask making with clay, sculpture, papier maché, stencil creation, monogram, hand lettering, and painting.

Stagecraft: Mask Making

Spring 2020

Students acquire fundamental crafting techniques for making small hand props by creating theatrical masks. The course covers the full range of an object-building process, from ideas and research to sketching and following through on the crafter's original intention. Each student produces at least one fully painted, working stage mask. The craft of working on stage with masks is discussed throughout the course. Spring 2020 devised remote course offering midsemester and online instruction.

Artist-in-Residence

Bentley University

Fall 2008 – Fall 2009

For three semesters, I served as the director/choreographer of three productions sponsored by Alpha Psi Omega: *Personals*, *Alibis*, and *Urinetown* in the Koumantzelis Auditorium. I served as advisor to Alpha Psi Omega's Board of Directors to establish best practices in arts management, production, design, marketing, and communications.

Artist-in-Residence
Suffolk University

Fall 2007

In the fall of 2007, I co-directed the musical play, *Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens*. The production served as a platform for AIDS Awareness and education with students, Suffolk University, and the Boston Community.

K – 12 EDUCATION

Judge

Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild

present

I serve as a Judge for the Massachusetts High School Drama Festival is a competitive program that includes 114 one-act plays produced by member high schools. The competition is organized across three levels – preliminary, semi-final and State Finals. Student excellence in acting and technical design is recognized at each level. State Finalists will go on to represent Massachusetts in the New England Drama Festival, the regional showcase of secondary school theatre.

Consultant

Boston Arts Academy, high school for music, performing and visual arts

2010 – 2020

For the last decade, I have served as an adjudicator for Boston Arts Academy's admission entrance auditions into the Theatre Department.

Student Teaching

Boston Arts Academy, high school for music, performing, and the visual arts

2010 – 2011

During the 2010-2011 school year, I created an acting, movement, and voice curriculum for high school theatre juniors in the studies of Shakespeare, Molière, and contemporary playwrights through the foundations of Viewpoints and Linklater voice training.

Teaching Artist

Solomon Schechter Day School

Fall 2009

As the teaching artist and director, I developed the pilot musical-theatre program for grades 1-3. Students were introduced to the musical theatre form through improvisation, movement, voice, and original script writing culminating in a final performance.

Teaching Artist

Our Lady of Lourdes School

1993 – 2005

As a music educator, I introduced the foundations of music theory, voice, and movement through multicultural music for students in Pre-K to Grade 8. The curriculum was performed in the annual Multicultural Night, where the performance celebrated a palette of countries and a gallery show of their artwork.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Director of Education

Broadway Experience

2010 – present

In this role, I work with organizations throughout Boston - specifically Roxbury, Mattapan, Dorchester, and surrounding states to share the experience of live Broadway productions through a curriculum which identifies themes that resonate in the production and with our teen community. This three-day workshop discusses the artistic and technological elements of the production in addition to an overview of theatre history through interactive conversations and group projects. The creation of the Ambassador Program was in direct response to the youth we serve who wish to be mentored and trained in leadership roles. Broadway Experience workshops have included:

- Workshop 1: *West Side Story*, 2011, Boston
- Workshop 2: *Wicked*, 2013, Boston
- Workshop 3: *Wicked*, 2014, Rhode Island
- Workshop 4: *Aladdin*, 2018, Boston
- Workshop 5: *Dear Evan Hansen*, 2019, Boston

Director of Theatre/Curriculum Developer

Westwood Recreation Department

2004 – 2014

For ten years, I developed and directed The Children's Company, a musical theatre and creative dramatics program for youth ages 5–16 inspired by children's literature and poetry. Performance highlights include: *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Cinderella*, *Peter Pan*, *The Lion King*, *Seussical*, *Pinocchio*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *Annie*. Programming increased to include summer and vacation camps and the creation of an apprenticeship program for participants who had aged out of our programming and were seeking community service and an introduction to the teaching experience. Through this apprenticeship program I supervised and evaluated their work and created a year-long curriculum for professional development. The Westwood Recreation Department requested the development of a visual art curriculum which I developed for both adults in watercolor and in the creation of the Children's Art Studio: visual art for ages 7–10 in mixed media for vacation and summer programming.

Music Educator
Tiny Tot Tunes

2005 – 2006

As a music educator, I taught a child and caregiver music curriculum for Tiny Tot Tunes serving the communities of Boston, Canton, and Dedham.

Music Educator
Family Music Makers

2005

As a music educator, I taught a child and caregiver music curriculum for Family Music Makers serving the communities of Newton, Boston's Back Bay, and Brookline,

Theatre Educator
St. Mary of the Hills

1996 – 1997 & 2002 – 2005

As a theatre educator, I taught, directed, choreographed, and designed the annual musicals:

- *Schoolhouse Rock*
- *Once on This Island*
- *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*
- *Godspell*

Theatre Instructor/Stage Manager
Alvin Ailey Dance Theater's AileyCamp

Summer 2004

As a theatre instructor for AileyCamp, I created and led an introductory course in theatre history, acting, improvisation, movement, and voice to support and prepare students for the final production at the Shubert Theatre which I stage managed.

Drama Club Director
The Wang Center for the Performing Arts: Suskind Young At Arts

1997 – 2002

Director & co-playwright:

- *Making Connections* at the Majestic Theatre, Boston
- *Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow* at the Majestic Theatre, Boston

Stage Manager:

- *Boston Public Schools' MLK Celebration*, The Wang Theatre
- *Boston Public Schools' MLK Celebration*, Blackman Auditorium

Director/Choreographer
First Presbyterian Church

1996 – 1998

Working with an ensemble of over 40 youth participants, I directed, choreographed, and designed musical productions which included: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Godspell*.

Director of Education/Curriculum Developer/Playwright
Youth in Action

1997 – 2007

I devised the curriculum for *Youth in Action* to facilitate a conversation in Mattapan and Dorchester about the violence in their community. In collaboration with teen victims and former gang members, we created original work voicing their personal lens through workshops and a final scripted production, *I Dream*, toured Boston communities promoting non-violence by and for youth. I led workshops in playwriting, acting, theatre history, and stage combat.

HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Assistant
Emerson College, Department of Performing Arts

2006 – 2014

I served as the communication liaison with departments within the College, prospective students and parents, external clients and guest artists. I generated daily, weekly, and monthly e-newsletters on behalf of the Department Chair that was distributed to 600 undergraduate and graduate students, 125 faculty, and 12 staff. I managed the year-round execution of space requests and events as well as supervised the production of various departmental publications. I served as the facilitator and contact with candidates for faculty and staff searches. I managed student, faculty, department and course data, records, archiving and executing reports to the Chair, Dean of the School of the Arts, and College Archivist.

Arts Ambassador
Da Vinci Foundation

2006 – 2014

For eight years, I served as an arts ambassador to the Da Vinci Foundation where I developed strategic plans based on my experience as an arts educator and curriculum developer.